

TAB Q

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Recommendation B, 7.

1. We do not concur in this recommendation.
2. It is conceded by the Survey that the "Y" system of designating certain sources is proper in purpose; however, the Survey recommends that the system be abolished because it has proven inadequate in execution. As the Survey indicates, these inadequacies have been well recognized and consistent efforts have been made to establish a uniform system to correct them. It is believed that most of the major obstacles to such a system have now been overcome.
3. The greatest problem, that of convincing the field that the "Y" system provides completely satisfactory source protection in all but the most unusual cases, was overcome several years ago. The administrative problem of converting field and headquarters records without prohibitive cost has only recently been solved. The only problem remaining is the extent to which the field should reopen the subject with its old "Y" sources in the course of converting as many as possible to the "Y" system. The [REDACTED] now believes that it has found a realistic solution to that problem.
4. At the annual meeting of the field chiefs in October it is planned to determine upon a program which will be uniform and binding on all offices, whereby all indexed "Y" sources will be reduced to a minimum, and active "Y" sources reduced to a negligible percentage. New "Y" sources will then be limited to those rare instances where a useful source refuses to disclose information unless his identity is withheld; and in each such case, the field will be required to provide the facts to justify the action. It is believed that the "Y" system should be retained if its use is thus controlled, and that it would be a very short-sighted policy to refuse to accept information merely because a source were to insist upon unusually strong protection.

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